

Air Pollution Control Board Overview

The following information gives an overview of the Air Pollution Control Board's responsibilities, member qualifications and compensation, and board meetings.

Responsibilities

The Air Pollution Control Board primarily considers the adoption, amendment or repeal of regulations at meetings and may consider the issuance or amendment of certain permits. The regulations concern the control and reduction of air pollution throughout the Commonwealth or in affected areas. The Department of Environmental Quality administers the day-to-day operation of Virginia's air pollution programs, issues permits, and enforces permits and regulations as delegated by Virginia law.

Activities of the board may include:

- Granting local variances and orders for the control and reduction of air pollution and for the enforcement of regulations
- Issuing permits for the construction or modification and operation of polluting facilities
- Collecting fees for the administrative and enforcement costs of permits
- Approving local air pollution control ordinances
- Upholding regulations that provide for emissions trading programs to achieve and maintain air quality
- Adopting emissions standards for motor vehicles in certain localities
- Making regulations that set standards and procedures for the inspection of motor vehicles
- Approving training programs for motor vehicle inspectors
- Licensing stations qualified to do safety inspections and fleet owners or lessees to conduct emissions inspections
- Granting licenses to emissions mechanics or inspectors
- Adopting clean alternative fuel fleet standards for motor vehicles

Member qualifications

The governor appoints seven Virginia citizens to serve as board members. The selection is based on merit without regard to political affiliation. Members shall, by their education, training, or experience, be knowledgeable of air quality control and regulation, and shall be fairly representative of conservation, public health, business, and agriculture. No person appointed to the board shall be employed by persons subject to permits or enforcement orders of the board or receive a significant portion of his income, whether directly or indirectly, from persons subject to permits or enforcement orders of the board. Income from a vested retirement benefit shall not be considered income for purposes of this section. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section relating to board membership, the qualifications for board membership shall not be more strict than those that are required by federal statute or regulations of the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Meetings

Virginia law requires at least four meetings per year. The average length of the meetings is approximately six hours. The meetings are usually held in Richmond. Members must also attend a joint meeting with the waste and water boards. DEQ provides members with agenda materials to help them prepare for the meetings.

Public hearings related to air permits occur in addition to the board meetings. At least one air board member must attend some permit public hearings. The hearings can be anywhere in the state and are normally during the evening.

Compensation

Board members receive 50 dollars per day for attending meetings, plus reasonable and necessary travel expenses as determined by state regulations.

Additional resources

Text of Virginia law related to air pollution (Title 10.1, Chapter 13 and Title 46.2, Chapter 10, Article 22) is available through the [Code of Virginia database](#).